

U.S. Serial No. 09/981,430  
Page 3

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

The following is a marked-up version the Claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (c)(1)(ii) with instructions and markings showing changes made herein to the previous version of the Claims on record. Underlining denotes added text while strikeout denotes deleted text.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)

U.S. Serial No. 09/981,430  
Page 4

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An esterase produced by a method comprising the steps of:

- (a) transforming a suitable microbial host cell with a vector comprising,
  - (i) a first DNA encoding an esterase comprising an amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 28 or SEQ ID NO: 26, or
  - ~~(ii) a second DNA capable of hybridizing under standard stringency conditions with a DNA comprising at least 400 nucleotides of the DNA sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 29 wherein the second DNA encodes a protein having esterolytic activity;~~
- (b) cultivating said transformed host cell under conditions suitable for said host cell to produce an esterase; and
- (c) separating the produced esterase from said host cell.

24. (Cancelled)

U.S. Serial No. 09/981,430  
Page 5

25. (Currently Amended) A feed supplement comprising the esterase set forth in ~~produced by the method according to~~ claim 23.

26 (Currently Amended) A process of treating fabric, yarn, or textiles comprising contacting said fabric, yarn or textile with the esterase set forth in ~~produced according to~~ claim 23.

27. (Previously Amended) An isolated esterase comprising the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 28 or SEQ ID NO: 26.

28. (Previously Amended) The isolated esterase according to claim 27, wherein said esterase is from a filamentous fungus, bacteria or yeast.

29. (Previously Amended) The isolated esterase according to claim 27, wherein said esterase is derived from *Aspergillus*.

30. (Previously Amended) The isolated esterase according to claim 29, wherein said esterase is derived from *Aspergillus niger*.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) An isolated esterase having a molecular weight about 38kD as measured by SDS-PAGE and derived from *Aspergillus*, wherein said isolated esterase comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:28 or SEQ ID NO:26.

34. (Cancelled)

U.S. Serial No. 09/981,430  
Page 6

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~method according to~~ esterase of claim 23, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus spp.*, *Trichoderma spp.*, and *Aspergillus spp.*

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~method according to~~ esterase of claim 35, wherein the host cell is *Aspergillus niger*.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~method according to~~ esterase of claim 35, wherein the host cell is a *Bacillus*.

38. (Previously Added) An animal feed comprising the esterase of claim 27.

39. (Previously Added) A process of treating a fabric, yarn or textile comprising contacting said fabric, yarn or textile with the esterase of claim 27.